



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL
ENTITY STATUS (37 C.F.R. §1.9(f) and §1.27(c))--
SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I, Toshihiro Okita

hereby declare that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below:
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Sojinkobo Company, Limited

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 9-12, Shiroyama-cho, Sasebo-shi,
Nagasaki-ken, Japan

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. §121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when, either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under license, contract or law have been acquired by or conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled

ERGONOMIC HANDRAIL

by inventor Yoshifumi OKITA

as described in

the specification filed herewith.

the specification filed 11/01/2001 under Serial No. 10/004,541

Patent No. _____, issued _____

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(e).

No such person, concern or organization exists.

Any such person, concern or organization is identified below, if applicable:

Full Name _____

Address _____

_____ individual _____ small business concern _____ nonprofit organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. §1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

TYPED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING _____

TITLE (LEGAL CAPACITY) _____

Date: 2/4/2002

Signature

Tozohiro Okita
津田 おおきた



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL
ENTITY STATUS (37 C.F.R. §1.9(f) and §1.27(c))--
SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I, Tsutomu Ochi

hereby declare that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below:

an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Sasebo Kowanunyu Kabushikikaisha

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 4-5, Yorozu-cho, Sasebo-shi,
Nagasaki-ken, Japan

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. §121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when, either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under license, contract or law have been acquired by or conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled

ERGONOMIC HANDRAIL

by inventor Yoshifumi OKITA

as described in

the specification filed herewith.

the specification filed 11/01/2001 under Serial No. 10/004,541

Patent No. _____, issued _____

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(e).

No such person, concern or organization exists.

Any such person, concern or organization is identified below, if applicable:

Full Name _____

Address _____

_____ individual _____ small business concern _____ nonprofit organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. §1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

TYPED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING _____

TITLE (LEGAL CAPACITY) _____

Date: 1/29/02

Signature

TSUTOMU. OCHI



(3)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of)
Yoshifumi OKITA)
Serial No.: 10/004,541) Group Art Unit _____
Filed: 11/01/2001) Examiner:
For: "ERGONOMIC HANDRAIL")

BOX MISSING PARTS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Application Division,
Special Handling Unit

Sir:

**STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY THAT PAPERS ATTACHED TO DECLARATION
ARE A COPY OF THOSE FILED IN PTO TO OBTAIN A FILING DATE**

I, the undersigned

Dennis T. Griggs

Name of Attorney

17950 Preston Road, Suite 1000

Address

Dallas, Texas 75252

City, State, Zip Code

Registration No. 27,790

Telephone (214) 447-4569

hereby state that I am the attorney for the applicant in this application and that I have reviewed the

1 page of abstract
25 pages of specification
4 pages of claims
15 pages of drawings
-- pages of amendment

as shown in my files to be the papers that I filed in respect to the above-identified application and have compared them to the papers attached to the declaration(s) of

Yoshifumi OKITA
for "ERGONOMIC HANDRAIL"
(Title of Invention)

that accompany this statement and I declare that these papers attached to the declaration(s) are a true copy of the specification and any amendment thereto that I filed in the PTO in order to obtain a filing date for this application by:

 deposit by hand at the PTO
 mailing to the PTO
X mailing to the PTO by Express Mail
bearing Mailing Label No. EK742036075US
on 11/01/2001

Date: February 22, 2002


Dennis T. Griggs
Registration No. 27,790
Attorney for Applicant

Griggs & Johnston, LLP
17950 Preston Road, Suite 1000
Dallas, Texas 75252
(972) 447-4569

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY THAT PAPERS ATTACHED TO DECLARATION ARE A COPY OF THOSE FILED IN PTO TO OBTAIN A FILING DATE (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box MISSING PART, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Misty L. Szatkowski

(Typed name of person mailing paper)

Date: February 22, 2002

Misty L. Szatkowski

(Signature of person mailing paper)

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(3)

As an inventor named below, I declare that:

This declaration is of the following type:

original divisional continuation continuation-in-part (C-I-P) national stage of PCT

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below), or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below), of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"ERGONOMIC HANDRAIL"

the specification of which

is attached hereto.

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 11/01/2001 as United States Application Number 10/004,541.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Claimed YES NO	Certified Copy Attached? YES NO
2000-336777	JAPAN	11/02/2000	YES	YES
2001-318680	JAPAN	10/16/2001	YES	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Provisional Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Status

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Status

All foreign application(s), if any, filed more than 12 months (6 months for design) prior to this U.S. application: **NONE**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

TITLE OF INVENTION:

"ERGONOMIC HANDRAIL"

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I HEREBY APPOINT THE FOLLOWING U.S. ATTORNEY TO PROSECUTE THIS APPLICATION AND TRANSACT ALL BUSINESS IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CONNECTED THEREWITH:

Dennis T. Griggs, Reg. No. 27,790

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney named above to accept and follow instructions from

Koichiro Kato
 Kato, Shiori & Shiori
 La Porte Main Building, Suite 409
 4-1, Funado-cho, Ashiyva
 Hyogo 659-0093, JAPAN

as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the person from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:		DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
Dennis T. Griggs Griggs & Johnston, LLP 17950 Preston Road, Suite 1000 Dallas, Texas 75252 U.S.A.		Dennis T. Griggs (972) 447-4569 FACSIMILE: (972) 732-9218
NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
Yoshifumi Okita		
RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)	RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)	RESIDENCE (City, State & Country)
Nagasaki-ken, JAPAN		
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS
9-12, Shiroyama-cho, Sasebo-shi, Nagasaki-ken, JAPAN		
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
JAPAN		
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR
<i>Yoshifumi Okita</i>		
DATE	DATE	DATE
2/4/2002		